



Program Summary

Albania's program is focused on reforming the country's public procurement process and strengthening the Tirana Tax Department | to promote fiscal transparency and accountability. It is also supporting the establishment of a National Registration Center to help combat corruption in business registration.

Program Highlights

- The National Registration Center or "one-stop shop," became operational in September 2007, and has processed more than 10,000 applications since opening. In addition to the Tirana headquarters, service windows have been opened in seven municipalities around Albania.
- As of January 1, 2008, 22 service window clerks working in eight locations, were each processing up to 10 new registrations and update applications per day. Each clerk also provides about 40 "extracts" of registered businesses per day. These "extracts" show that the business is in good standing for loans and government procurements.
- The threshold program is helping to create the first fully accessible electronic database of all registered businesses in Albania. To date, all 39,000 registration files for legal entities, plus 30,000 of the 175,000 files for self-employed individuals, have been scanned and indexed.
- In a program milestone, on November 12, 2007, the Albanian Power Corporation utilized the e-procurement system created under the threshold program for a €220 million bid to buy electricity from December 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. Four of the eight bidders submitted electronic bids in addition to paper bids.
- In December, the Parliament enacted a draft energy procurement regulation that ensures e-procurement is used for future electricity buys. The National Registration Center has also committed to using the e-procurement system for a tender for internet connectivity in 2008.
- The Public Procurement Advocate's Office received 23 complaints lodged by bidders in November and December 2007. All of these complaints were investigated, and in four cases, the Procurement Advocate recommended discontinuing the procedure because of discovered irregularities. In each case, the recommendation was accepted by the contracting authority and the procedures were cancelled, reflecting that this new "check" on the procurement process is working.

Threshold Status

Status.....Implementation, Year 1

Threshold Information

Total Amount.....\$13.85 million

Duration.....2 years

Agreement Signed.....April 3, 2006

Country Information

Population.....3,129,678*

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$2,580*